

Sharp pitching sets Spuds apart

Kerry Collins

The Forum - 05/26/2008

Everybody hits is a popular rallying cry on the baseball diamond.

Moorhead has put a new twist on that old favorite to the tune of everybody pitches.

Nine of the 17 players on the Moorhead roster have pitched this season, giving the Spuds a formidable pitching staff entering todays section playoffs.

Were confident starting anybody, and we can bring in a lot of different guys in relief, Moorhead coach Greg Salvevold said. Theyre not getting behind, and theyre not walking a lot of guys.

The Spuds (13-7) open the Minnesota Class 3A, Section 8 tournament against Bemidji at noon today in Brainerd, Minn.

Six different players have started for the Spuds. Five of those starters have thrown complete games.

Moorhead has a team ERA of 3.73 on the year, and the team has given up just 44 walks.

Starters Sam Grantham, Kyle Van Dyke, Paul Roers and Scott Petry lead the way.

Most teams have one or two good starters, and we have, like, six, Petry said. You dont have to worry about having to throw every other day.

Grantham leads the group with a 4-0 mark and 2.50 ERA in 28 innings pitched. He has gone the distance in all four of his starts, and has one shutout.

Hes also given up just three walks in 28 innings pitched.

You can be a little more relaxed out there whether youre pitching or not because you know what youre going to get, Grantham said. We know that whoever is on the mound is probably going to do well.

Van Dyke and Roers have been the power pitchers. Van Dyke has struck out 24 in the 29Xc innings, while Roers has 18 strikeouts in 21 innings.

Both pitchers are 2-2, and Van Dyke has a couple of saves.

Its really come together this year, and we can start five or six guys that are throwing almost nothing but strikes, Van Dyke said. We throw with confidence, and we have confidence in every guy that goes out there.

The fact that everybody is throwing and throwing well is no fluke.

Salvevold is an accomplished hurler in his own right, pitching with the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks of the Northern League from 1997 to 2003.

It helps a lot because he has so much experience, Grantham said. I think hes really helped all of us. You can only benefit from a coach having that kind of experience.

Salvevold doesnt think his influence is that big of a deal. After all, its the kids doing the pitching, he said.

I think we have a good bunch of very athletic kids here, Salvevold said. They can all go out there and throw strikes, and not just anyone can do what these guys can do.